

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. Claim 22 has been cancelled. Claims 10-21 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-9 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-9 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Orszulik (WO 01/59196) hereinafter "Orszulik").

Claims 1-9

Amended claim 1 recites: "...spin-drying laundry by operating a motor to rotate a rotary tub after a washing and/or rinsing operation; stopping operation of the motor; and spraying and feeding water into the rotary tub during a time period when the rotary tub is inertially rotating after stopping operation of the motor." Support for this amendment may be found in at least paragraphs [0040] and [0041] and Figure 3 of the present application. In contrast to claim 1, Orszulik does not discuss the operation of stopping the motor and spraying water into the rotary tub while the rotary tub is rotating based on inertia. The method of Orszulik includes rotating the drum 16 at a first rotational speed sufficient to retain the wash load; introducing rinse water into the drum 16 so that the rinse water is sprayed from the inlet 36 onto the wash load 42; and increasing the speed of rotation of the drum 16 to a second rotational speed sufficient to spin a significant proportion of the rinse water out of the wash load 42. In order to support an anticipation rejection, the method of Orszulik must discuss all of the operations of claim 1 as they are arranged in the claim. However, Orszulik only discusses going from a first speed to a second speed without the operation of stopping the rotary tub and letting it spin on its own inertia. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Orszulik.

This technical feature of claim 1 provides that water is directly sprayed into the rotary tub just before termination of an intermittent spin-drying operation which is performed after a washing or rinsing operation, and enables laundry to be uniformly soaked with the water within a short time and improving rinsing performance.

Claims 2-9 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 22

Claim 22 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 14, 2007

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